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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 59th MEETING

Chairman: Ms. AL-HAMAMI (Yemen)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 114: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to elect a new Chairman of the Working Group on Human Rights to replace Mr. Ayala Lasso, who had been appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights.

2. Mr. TÜRK (Slovenia) was elected Chairman of the Working Group on Human Rights by acclamation.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with the decision taken by the Third Committee, as reflected in paragraph 4 of its report to the General Assembly (A/48/632/Add.4), the Working Group was to consider other aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Declaration. She took it that the Committee agreed that, since there was little time available before the conclusion of the current session, the deliberations of the Working Group should be continued during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly under item 104 of the provisional agenda.

4. It was so decided.

5. Mr. TÜRK (Slovenia) said he was honoured to have been elected Chairman of the Working Group on Human Rights. The Working Group had formulated the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and was now beginning to consider other aspects of the implementation of the recommendations of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, as set out in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Declaration. The Working Group faced important and complex tasks and it was expected to make a meaningful contribution to the universal enjoyment of human rights. Its mandate included both questions of substance and the question of the further evolution of United Nations mechanisms in the field of human rights. A coherent, realistic and balanced approach should be sought in order to strengthen United Nations action for human rights.

6. Mr. SOEGARDA (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that, while he welcomed the appointment of Mr. Türk as Chairman of the Working Group, he regretted that it had taken so long to make that appointment. The non-aligned countries had held several meetings to consider how best to accomplish the second part of the Working Group's mandate and had adopted a non-paper, reflecting their views and setting forth their proposals, which had been transmitted to the secretariat of the Third Committee on 22 August 1994, including a proposal that the Third Committee should adopt a resolution designed to improve United Nations human rights mechanisms and ensure that existing mechanisms reflected the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

7. Mr. MUCH (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, congratulated Mr. Türk on his appointment as Chairman of the Working Group. He pledged the cooperation of the European Union and drew attention to the European Union's position paper. The Working Group should draw some guidance from the paper submitted by the Centre for Human Rights, which reviewed the status of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

8. The CHAIRMAN declared that the Third Committee had completed its work for the forty-eighth session.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.